

TONOPAH DAILY BONANZA

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DON'T LIKE THE MEASURE

A bill has been introduced by Assemblyman Marsh of Nye county to abolish the office of tax assessor, and to turn the work over to the Nevada tax commission. The measure provides that the tax commission name special appraisers to do the work throughout the state, and to receive salaries of \$200 per month and traveling and hotel expenses when away from home.

The Ely Record does not look with favor upon this bill, as the editor states it would certainly greatly increase the cost of assessing without increasing the efficiency of the office. Property values are already fixed by the state tax commission. The creation of a lot of traveling assessors would open a wide field for graft from the state treasury. We already have too many commissions of various sources traveling over the state at the expense of the tax payer, and these offices should be consolidated or eliminated altogether.

Property values have increased rapidly in this state during the last few years, but the increased cost of administration has more than kept pace with this increase, and as a consequence our tax rate has also increased, and still the present legislature is asked to appropriate something more than \$50,000 for a deficiency that has occurred during the past two years.

In this connection it might be asked, what is the use of a budget system if officials are allowed to increase their expenses beyond the amount allowed and then ask the legislature for an appropriation to pay that which they have contracted without legal authority.

What the people of this state now want, and demand, from the legislature is rigid retrenchment and a lowering of taxation. They are not interested in new laws which add expense without a corresponding benefit.

MEAT PRICES SHOULD DROP

THE packing house investigation at Washington is bringing out some illuminating facts in connection with that industry. The big packers say there will be no reduction in the price of meats for another year while the independent small packers agree that there must be concessions to the consumers based on the offerings in their respective markets or the beef growers will be the chief sufferers from the present demand which is restricted through the efforts of the Big Five of Chicago to maintain retail prices at war rates. The argument in favor of cheaper meats is founded on the fact that hay has declined and all other farm commodities entering into the production of beef and mutton also shown signs of weakening, thus tending to lower the cost of the finished product. Before the war it is a matter of record that wheat at 2 cents a pound, 60 pounds to the bushel, and oats at a cent a pound with 32 pounds to the bushel, all brought the farmer big profits. These prices paid off the mortgages of the farms of the Mississippi valley. When you put ten bushels of corn into a hundred pounds of hog, you have a hog that would be worth 5 1/2 cents a pound. Double this and you have a hog that would be worth 11 cents a pound. Double this and you have 22 cents, but, when you add 6 cents, making 17 1/2 cents, no owing to this disparity it is rapidly becoming the general belief that before the end of the year prices will fall to the before the war stage. Pork is the poor man's food, and, when it is understood that 17 1/2 cent pork means a 45 or 50-cent chop, prices cannot be maintained. Pork has more sustaining value than beef because of its oil. A man can go longer on pork than on any other meat. Bacon will keep the soldier in better condition than any other form of meat and a pound of lard has more food value than anything else of equal weight. The greatest vice of the American people is their wastefulness. An American wants what he wants when he wants it and is willing to pay for it. The great difference between Americans and the people of other nations is that the latter, when they are confronted with 80-cent butter and 90-cent eggs, is that, when they are brought face to face with such prices, they stop eating these articles of food which are unreasonably high in price and live on other less expensive foods. The consumers are the best food dictators who, if they only exercised the judgment of the foreigners, would speedily bring the control of foodstuffs within their means.

DEFICIT IS STAGGERING

At every turn, under the present system of operating, the railroad problem grows more acute. Since the government took over the roads the deficit has been growing so fast that it has become staggering. It is now estimated that the deficit for 1919 will be \$250,000,000 due to wage increase and the possible decrease in traffic. According to the latest official reports, expenses are multiplying and the prospect is that there will be no let up. The new director general of railroads is planning to meet this by increasing freight rates. As they are now abnormally high, which in the end comes out of the ultimate consumer, the public faces a serious problem. If the experience so far of government control of the roads is any criterion for the future, the general outlook assumes a serious aspect. A strong argument is being furnished why the roads should revert to the owners. Increased freight rates will keep up the cost of living for years. This will mean continued hard times and self denial on the part of people with small incomes.

It would appear from the latest information that the transportation system of this country is about as badly wrecked as the German government. To get out of the tangle will require reason and the highest grade of statesmanship. The only hope so far seems to be in the coming change in the complexion of congress.

CLIPPED AND CREDITED

Tampa (Fla.) felt very wicked, but when Billy Sunday named the sum for which he would reform her, she concluded to stay bad. —Memphis Commercial Appeal.

If people can look back from the other shore and cogitate on sublimity matters, we wonder what the long-life and good-health theorists think when, after years of preaching their theories and presumably following them in their own lives, they suddenly find themselves removed by death, no older or happier than anybody else. —Columbus Dispatch.

The most favorable view that could be taken of the Spartacus votaries has been that they are dreamers and visionaries. In many ways they show the unscrupulous shrewdness of the trickiest old-fashioned politicians. —New York World.

YANKS BRAVERY EARNS HONORS FROM BRITISH

(Correspondence Associated Press) ARCHANGEL, Jan. 18.—(Via London).—Seven gallant soldiers of the north Russian expeditionary forces have received awards of British decorations for conspicuous bravery in the operations which have sorely tried their grit and staying qualities during the past few weeks of Arctic winter.

Private Joseph Edginton, of Goosara, Mich., whose conduct won him a recommendation for an American award as well as the British medal, is commended in the following citation:

"During an attack on Dwina on November 11, Private Edginton was stationed as a machine gun helper in an open unfortified outpost, subject to concentrated fire of shrapnel and high explosive shells. A direct hit by a high explosive shell blew the machine gun into the air, and this soldier was buried in the earth thrown up by the explosion. Four comrades stationed with him left the post. He dug himself out, unearthing the machine gun, cleaned it, and remained in defense of the post until relieved after dark."

The others decorated are:

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First Lieutenant Harry S. Steele, of Saginaw, Mich. (Military cross).

Near Uspadenga on November 29 he rallied his men with great bravery, retiring under heavy machine gun fire. He took charge when his senior officer was killed and withdrew the party in order.

Second Lieutenant Harry M. Dennis, Ashland, Wis. (Military cross). Exceptionally efficient leadership and personal bravery in the Dwina campaign.

Sergeant Theodore W. Pautsch, 274 Potomac street, Detroit, Mich. (Military medal). Great gallantry at Uspadenga when his platoon was heavily attacked.

Sergeant Floyd A. Wallace, Battle Creek, Mich. (Distinguished conduct medal). In an engagement November 1 he was stationed in an outpost which was heavily shelled. A bursting shell struck a strawstack in

RANGER HAS FINE SPIRIT IN FACING NEW LOAN TASK

In Spite of Losses by Drought Says "Just Tell Us How Much"

Down in West Texas and in Southern Arizona and New Mexico they have had two years of drought. Cattle have starved in large numbers while the rest have been driven off the range and sold for what the languishing rancher could get for them because there was no feed. Then, the other day, a representative of the Treasury Department arrived in El Paso and called a meeting of Liberty Loan county chairmen from these afflicted districts to discuss the coming Victory Liberty Loan. They left their ranches and went to the meeting in El Paso.

The Treasury Department man knew what they were up against but told them the government was going to float its last Liberty Loan to pay for finishing the war. He didn't go "very strong" because he knew that the constituents of these men, in fact these men themselves, had had no income for two years. He told them he knew it. Then came a reply that brought tears to his eyes. A tall, skinny, weather-beaten Texan unknickered himself from his seat and said:

"All we want to know, sub, is how much the government wants from us on the Fifth Liberty Loan, and we will give it—within reason." He sat down. Money in that country brings 8, 10 and 12 per cent interest. The Victory Loan Bonds will probably bring between 4 and 5. These people of the wide lands in Texas, Arizona and New Mexico have no income. They are going to use some of their capital to see their government through the Victory Liberty Loan.

Start figuring now on your personal quota of Victory Liberty Bonds. If you don't, start figuring on increased taxes.

KENNECOTT TO RAISE TONNAGE

(By Associated Press) Jan. 15.—(BY CORDOVA, Alaska).—Expansion of the Kenai operations by the Kennecott Copper company are to be pushed until, by the end of this year, it is expected, milling facilities will have been increased to permit the daily treatment of 1500 tons of ore instead of the present 550 tons. The ultimate capacity of the plant is to be 10,000 tons.

D. G. Bay City, Mich. (Military medal). Initiative and courage as a patrol leader.

Private Charles Bell, 905 West Kentucky street, Louisville, Ky. (Military medal). Bell with two others was stationed in a blockhouse. Two were killed and three seriously wounded by a Japanese shell. Although struck in the forehead and completely blinded in one eye, he remained at his post operating a Lewis gun until he could be relieved under cover of darkness.

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